OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 41 ***Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners*** **Mar 1998**

UPDATE SILVIA BARALDINI

On December 18, 1997, the United States Parole Commission, in a two page decision, denied Silvia Baraldini's application for release on parole and immediate deportation to Italy. The reasons given for this denial and the determination that Silvia should do every day of the maximum sentence meted out by the trial judge, have broad political implications for all political prisoners.

The Board acknowledged that Silvia did not directly participate in any actions which resulted in harm to people, that she has an exemplary prison record, and that she has suffered extreme hardship through her illness and the death of her sister. They denied parole because she supported the actions at the time and she failed to "cooperate" with law enforcement by refusing to provide information during her parole hearing: "... your insistence that the Parole Commission should grant you a parole based upon the alleged change in your outlook, notwithstanding your continued refusal to offer any cooperation with law enforcement authorities regarding the criminal operations with which you were involved, is not an acceptable basis for parole."(US Parole Commission, Notice of Action on Appeal, 12/18/97) The decision makes it clear that answering any and all questions from the FBI about one's activities, friends and comrades is the only road to parole. This denial is a policy statement--parole only comes when you are willing to give up your principles for freedom. This, Silvia will never do.

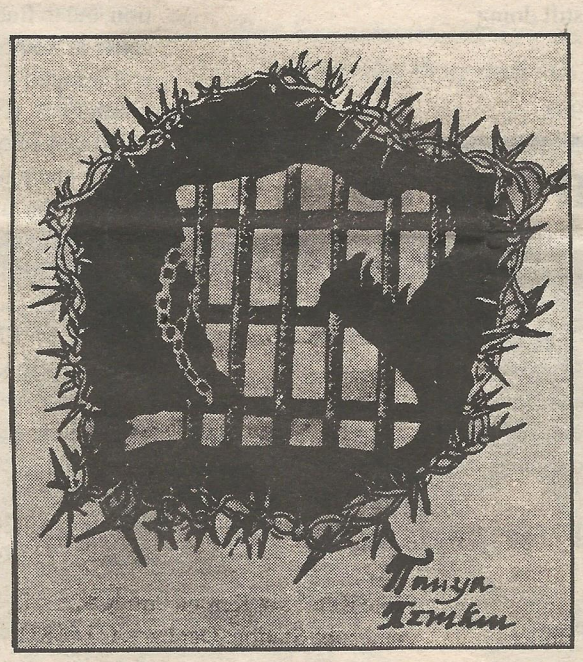
On behalf of Silvia and the Release Silvia Committees in New York and San Francisco, we want to thank everyone. In Silvia's own words: "Despite the categorical denial of my request for parole, the work done by the committee and by everyone who contributed to the effort was very important. The parole package presented to the Board demonstrated a broad range of support that could not be easily discounted. On a personal note, it was a morale booster to know that so many supported my petition for parole. It certainly made a very difficult process more bearable."

In April 1997, the Italian government and Silvia applied for repatriation for the fifth time. The U.S. government has not responded. We will continue our work on Silvia's behalf.

for more info: CRSBI 3543 18th #30 San Francisco, CA 94110
PO Box 02-1140 Brooklyn, NY11202
http://www.justice-for-silvia.org

write to Silvia: Silvia Baraldini (05125-054)
FCI Danbury Pembroke Station
Danbury, Conn. 06811

Out of Time
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee
3543--18th Street, Box 30
San Francisco, CA 94110
e-mail: outoftime@igc.apc.org



To our Sisters Behind the Walls

I am Sherron Longfeather, a former prisoner and one of the founding mothers of R.O.S.I. I am also a prison reform activist of 18 years.

I am writing to let you know it is time for R.O.S.I. "Remember Our Sisters Inside" Rebirth. In 1989 I wrote you, the women behind the walls, saying I was going into the hospital for surgery and would be right back to you. It has been 8 years since that time, and I want you to know I am sorry if I caused you any hurt or grief.

In that time, the road of life took me to death's door and down drug road. Now I am back strong in Body, Mind and Spirit, with three years and ten months clean and sober. I would like to start out fresh with you and continue to carry your message to the outside world. So, what do you say??? Want to give it another try with R.O.S.I? I have never forgotten you, my sisters inside. R.O.S.I's printed material, which another strong woman and friend kept for 8 years, has been returned to me. I've been waiting for the day to come when we could reach you again!!

We could do art shows, slide shows, educate the public, get women to write to you and a lot more.

If this sounds like something you could hang with, write Sherron Longfeather, 2619 School Street, Oakland, Ca. 94602.

Thank you again,
Sherron Longfeather & Jake Davenport
P.S. If given a chance, I will be your arms and legs and will carry your messages in my heart and on my lips. LET'S DO IT!!!

For the memory of 150 million Indigenous People exterminated across Turtle Island in the first 400 years of European contact beginning in 1492

Whitely, the president praises

a white students honesty
in admitting he's afraid
of poorly dressed Black men on the street
I know he's not afraid of Indians
as his grandfather was
because he believes we're all drunk or dead
Dead-tired I slam down the pot I'm scrubbing
in the white house & think about
punching out the radio
Then I'd have to clean this mausoleum
of artifacts stolen from Colored Cultures
in silence
which would force me to light a match
to their matching sofa pillows covered
in $500 a yard dragon fabric
woven in designs ripped off from Chinese porcelains
All of us so-called People of Color
be honest now
stand up if you've ever been deathly afraid
of white men and white women and white children
in rich clothes, in nice clothes, in poor clothes
or stark naked
I notice
there are no Colored Folks still seated
except the ones in wheelchairs
Hey mr. big white men
your fear t'aint news
It's your oldest ugly weapon
excuse for scalping us, stealing our land
raping our women, reducing human beings to cattle
jailing us, setting fire to our homes
hanging us, mocking us, using us
murdering us in the street with a baseball bat
in broad daylight
If I go on
you'll stop listening
because the law is
whites don't have to listen to us
they never have
We're not admitted
into any of the country clubs
just like Jews
Soon, if the whites have their say
we won't even be able to go to college

Racism pretends to defend the honor
of the supposedly helpless whites
who assault us constantly
dishonestly
& own every damnthing
There are no Indians on the Fortune 500
We're the dead ones
the broken & beat up ones
the grieving & agonized ones
We're poorly dressed
because
you aren't
I'm breaking it open to you
There's no honesty
in admitting you believe
your own propaganda
As for you mr. white president
shut up & go pretend
to play your saxophone
Racism is an economic weapon
which breaks our
hearts
not yours
which Kills our children
in ghastly statistics
not yours
which leaves us
not you
in grotesque poverty
15 people living in 2 rooms
with no indoor toilet
your fear is a lie
you're not the victim
of the system which benefits you
News flash with no film at eleven:
Get off your lazy, greedy, stealing,
stupid, scary, selfish & self-absorbed
murdering, pathetic asses
Be afraid
of yourself
of all you've done
of all you are still doing
like we are

Chrystos Dec. 1997

CONQUISTADOR STATUE AMPUTATED

The foot & ankle of a bronze statue of don juan de onate was removed from the onate center in Alcalde, New Mexico. Apparently some Indians are bitter about the state's organization of 185 events celebrating the Spaniard's conquest of New Mexico. They say there is no reason to honor a man who was stripped of his titles & banished from the colony for extreme cruelty.

A Spanish delgation including the deputy prime minister has requested a face-to-face with 19 Indian tribes. They hope in this re-encounter to redefine the relationship between the Indian people & the Spanish in order to lay aside some of the grievances of the past. Neither group intends to offer an apology. And,there is disagreement among Indian leaders wether to attend.

onate's task was to subdue Native people tnru conversion to catholicism & to give Spain a foothold for exploration in the new world.

So called vandals sawed off the right foot as a protest of the state's celebration of the region's first Spanish military governor. Unsigned letters taking credit for the action cited onate's order to amputate the right foot of 24 Indian men after the Spaniards defeated the ACOMA pueblo in 1599.

While the centuries have passed, anger continues. Tribal sovereignty that Indians fought so hard for remains a contentious issue today.

"...we are reminded that our fight will be as vicious as those people who have gone on before us. Like them,we are not willing to compromise our way of life..."

Jericho '98:

March on Washington, March 27

BIG MOUNTAIN

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is again in the business of harassment and intimidation of Western Shoshone people. They know when people are just trying to make some sort of living off the land, yet here comes the Great White Father, causing pain, emotional stress, inflicting fear.

The BLM threatens South Fork Western Shoshone Cattle Grazers with heavy fines and possible impoundment of their livestock.The secretary of the Interior claims to be the trustee for the Western Shoshone. If it is a trustee, the Department of the Interior must work for the Western Shoshone people, instead of threatening them. A trustee must find every law to protect these Western Shoshone cattle people.

I guess my question to the BLM is - are you a trustee? If you are then act like a trustee - It is your job to see that these people are not harassed and intimidated by your lower level personnel at the local BLM. No, by acting against the Western Shoshone Cattle Grazers the Department of the Interior now becomes someone else - not a trustee, but the developers of the land. Hey!

Here is the conflict of interest. The DOI can't act as a trustee and push Shoshone cattle grazers from their livelihood and way of life. It is ironic that in the face of these threats, the South Fork Cattle-people have asked local BLM or their superiors questions about land title and treaty, which they refuse to address. Why are these questions so difficult to answer?

These questions are all based on US laws - so I don't see any problem in addressing their concerns. To this day, US courts claim that the Treaty of Ruby Valley is still in full force and effect.

Yet, the BLM is trying to get the South Fork Cattle Grazers' organization to pay fines on tresspass alleged by the BLM. The Cattle-people have refused to pay or get a permit for grazing, and to this day have not paid anything for the charges of tresspassing. The South Fork Traditional Cattle-persons association has stayed firm in its stand that the lands they are currently using belong to the Western Shoshone Nation, and that therefore US Department of the Interior can't assess grazing fees on them.

The BLM's new tactic is not to fine the cattle organization, but to fine each individual member who runs or owns cattle at South Fork. The doctrine of divide and conquer is a weapon to weaken the Traditional Cattle Grazers at South Fork. Every one is now being harassed and intimidated in the hope that he will fall, and buy a BLM grazing permit and pay the fine.

Under the unity of the Traditional Cattle Grazers the group has stayed strong in their claim that the land is Western Shoshone land, recognized by theTreaty of Ruby Valley.

EVENTS IN CRESCENT VALLEY

On November 10, 1997, the State Director of the BLM, Mr. Robert Abbey paid the Dann sisters a visit. Mr. Abbey said that he felt that he was a decent man, but he had to carry out the court order to remove our livestock, as they claim we are in trespass. He said that he would see that all trespass impoundment orders will be enforced by the BLM.

Mary and I believe that the BLM must have a legal transfer document by which the Western Shoshone Nation gave our land to the US. This would have to be a treaty of cession. Mr. Tom Warren, Elko BLM District Range Specialist has told us many times that there is none, and of course this is right. The Western Shoshone have not

cont'd on page 4, oot

OUT OF TIME

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Archbishop DESMOND TUTU of South Africa believes that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will play a large part in the healing process of his country. The commission asks people to confess to racial crimes in return for amnesty.

"It is not enough to say let bygones be bygones...Indeed, just saying tht ensures it will not be so...Reconciliation does not come easy...Believing it does will ensure that it will never be...We have to work and look the beast firmly in the eyes...Ultimately you discover that without forgiveness there is no future...to pursue the path of healing for our nation, we need to remember what we have endured. But we must not simply pass on the violenceof that experience through the pursuit of punishment. We seek to do justice to the suffering without perpetuating the hatred aroused. We think of this as RESTORATIVE justice...We recognize that the past can't be remade through punishment. Instead-since we know memories will persist for a long time-we aim to acknowlwdge those memories. This is crtical if we are to build a democracy of self-respecting citizens. As a victim of injustice and oppresion, you lose your sense of selfworth as a person-your dignity. RESTORATIVE justice is focused on restoring the personhood that is damaged or lost....restoring that sense of self means restoring memory...a recognition that what happened to you HAPPENED.You are not crazy. Something seriously evil did happen to you. And, the nation believes you. That acknowledgement is crucial if healing is to go on and if the undercurrents of conflict are not to be left simmering...RESTORATIVE justice is different from retributive justice. ..retributive justice will adjudicate guilt, then the case is closed...But RESTORATIVE justice is about the profound inability of retributive justice to effect permanent closure on great human atrocities...to get justice, we must strive to undo the topdog/underdog reversals that make human horror endure. There is no point exacting vengenance now, knowing that it will be the cause for future vengenance by the offspring of those we punish. Vengeance leads only to revenge...forgiveness is not nebulous,unpractical,and idealistic...it is, in fact, thoroughly realistic....it's a realpolitik in the long run...Denial doesn't work...it can never lead to reconciliation...if a nation is going to be healed it has to come to grips with the past... we live in a moral universe..

what's right matters...what's wrong matters...you may keep things hidden, but they don't disappear...vengeance has an illusionary power...it only destroys those it claims and those who become intoxicated with it...it seems clear that if we don't deal with deep conflicts, they will never disappear...we aim to remember, to forgive and to go on, with full recognition of how fragile the threads of community are....."

Texas: Ana Lucia Gelabert

Ana Lucia Gelabert, a 58 year old Cuban woman in prison in Texas, needs our support. Because of her activism in prison, she has been able to leave her cell for exercise only six times since Feb. 1997. As further retaliation, she was moved from her job in the Clothing Room to the "medical" Hoe Squad. Legally, she should be exempt from field work like the Hoe Squad because she is over 55 years old. The prison administration has also confiscated all her vitamin supplements, and is claiming that she no longer has asthma (which she's had since childhood) and has cancelled her inhaler. The Hoe Squad is not only physically stressful and potentially damaging, but it may also expose Ana Lucia to harmful chemicals, both of which increase the likelihood of an asthma attack.

She asks people to write on her behalf to:
Gov. George W. Bush
P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428
1-800-252-9600
http://www.texas.gov/agency/301.html

TDCJ Director Wayne Scott
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77340

Mt. View Warden Pamela Baggett
2305 Ransom Rd., Gatesville, TX 76528-9399
254-865-7226
fax: 254-865-7277

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News Flash...

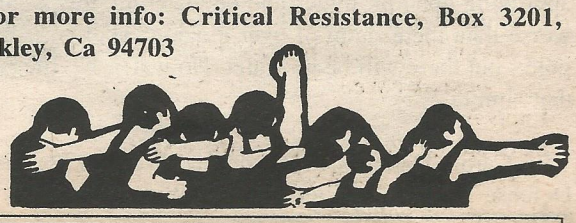
"After a 20 day vacation in the Bahamas (how "seg" is called here), I was surprised to have received a job change. From medical Hoe Squad to "night utility" so I am now a lady of the night. The situation here remains tense, but it appears that outside support has had some effect. My gratitude to all who wrote or called in my behalf"...Ana Lucia Gelabert, #384484 Riverside, 1401 State School Rd., Gatesville, TX 76568.

Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair
Saturday, March 14
10 am to 6 pm
free
San Francisco County Fair Building
Lincoln Way and 9th Ave.

CRITICAL RESISTANCE : BEYOND THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX A NATIONAL CONFERENCE & STRATEGY SESSION...SEPT 25-27 1998

Activists, scholars, policymakers, advocates, cultural workers and former prisoners will come together to address the contemorary crisis occasioned by the emergence of a u.s. prison industrial complex. Current prison construction and the exponential expansion of imprisoned populations has a particularly injurious impact on communities of color and on the rising numbers of imprisoned women. The dismantling of rehabilitative programs leads to systematic human rights violations. Politicians who take advantage of public misperceptions about crime have become increasingly influential and punishment had become profitable business in which rising numbers of corporations have staked their cliaim. The media plays right along and whips up fear and paranoia with extreme sensationalistic programs like" cops" and" america's most wanted". Our mission is to develop a strategy of resistance that will contest the trend toward imprisonment as a stop-gap approach to systematic social problems and encourage more effective movements for genuine social and economic justice.

For more info: Critical Resistance, Box 3201, Berkley, Ca 94703



Pratt's Reversal Appealed

Prosecutors appealed the judges decision that overturned the murder conviction of former Black Panther leader Geronimo Pratt, who served 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

The basis of the appeal surrounds testimony given at Pratt's murder trial by a man who claimed he heard Pratt confess to the 1968 murder. More news as we get it.

VIRTUAL S H U

Further expose' of abuses at pelican bay calif max prison has been added to the world wide web. s.f. attorneys Graham Noyes & Allen Hopper & New College student Kristen Hazard have taken the pelican bay struggle into cyberspace. Noyes represents Steve Castillo, a pelican bay prisoner, thru the federal pro bono project of the s.f. bar association. Castillo has been imprisoned in the SHU (security housing unit/super max) on an indeterminate term based on allegations of gang association. Remember, there needs to be no proof; only allegations. Noyes contends that Castillo is being punished for his legal assistance to fellow prisoners as a good jailhouse lawyer.

The virtual SHU allows the viewer to experience the Kafkaesque maze of injustice that confronts the prisoner. The site describes & graphically illustrates the conditions in the SHU: 22 1/2 hrs a day lockdown...denial of access to exercise materials...no activities of any kind...no human contact...The site is illustrated with original artwork by prisoners. It also contains the full text of MADRID v. GOMEZ, the class action lawsuit that found systematic abuse at pelican bay...

check it out @ http://www.surf.com/-lazlo.

courtesy of CA. Dept. of Corrections
(a *very* independent agency)

Big mountain... ***cont'd from page 2, oot***

made a treaty of cession, nor did we make any agreements giving our land to the US - ever.

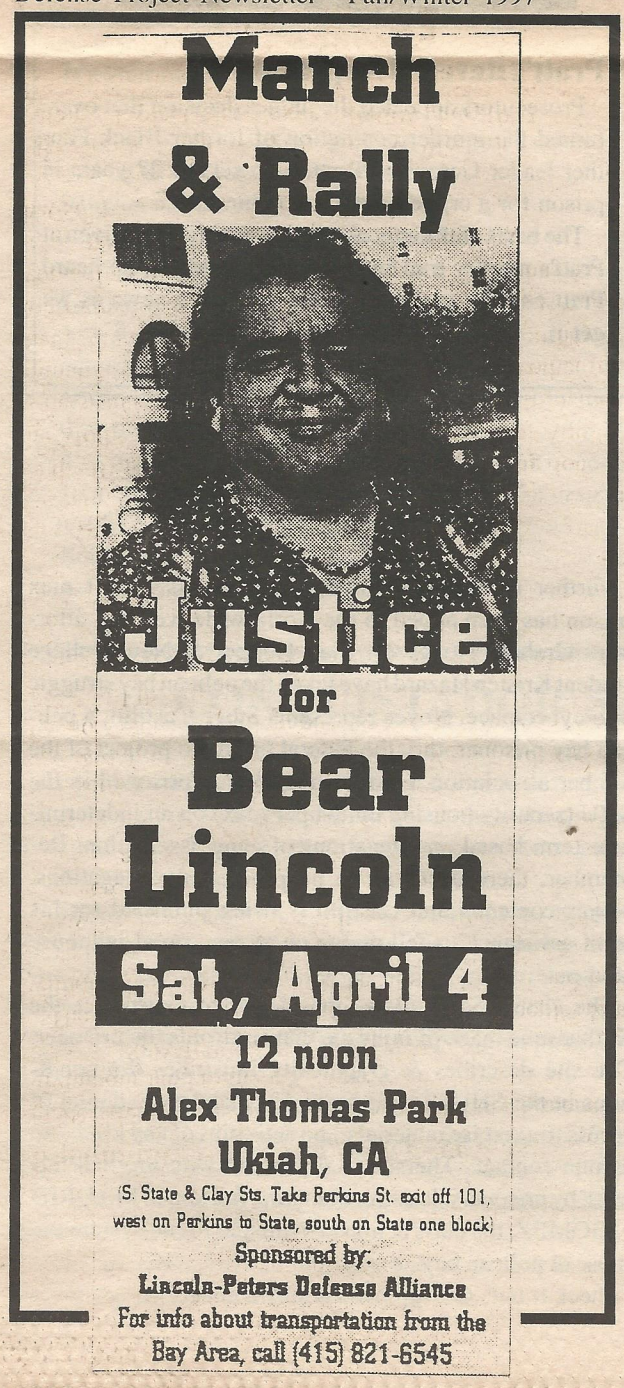
SOME PERSPECTIVE

The US is a forerunner in TAKING other peoples land without their approval - is it because they had and now have the weapons of mass destruction? In the history of westward movement, the indigenous people have been massacred and murdered. There was a bounty on men, women, and children, and populations were reduced to about 2%. This was physical genocide. Today there is destruction of Mother Earth, destruction of water, air contamination. These things, Earth, Water, and Air, are the most sacred to Indigenous peoples, and they represent life. I call this the final act of genocide - spiritual genocide against the Western Shoshone peoples.

Is it because they all think of indigenous peoples as infidels, heathens or savages? They did and still do classify us as our relative the Coyote, or any animal to be removed and placed where they want us to be.

Again, my opinion. The environmental damage - OK'd by the BLM - that has been done and is still being done to the Mother Earth and destruction of the Natural Aquifer is devastating to all life, and of course this will include human life as well as animal and bird and every other life that is out there. If the BLM continues on this journey of approving open pit mines and de watering, this is much worse than their claim of over grazing. They may have gold - but there will be no water. No water, No life - it's that simple.

By Carole Dann Article from the Western Shoshone Defense Project Newsletter - Fall/Winter 1997



Basque Country News

Citizens in Basque country with the help of the Basque Anti-Torture Group (T.A.T.) and Senideak (family members of Basque political prisoners, refugees, and deportees) are joining forces in defense of prisoners currently being held in Spain and are demanding their immediate transfer to Basque country.

Recently there have been two incidents that have figured prominently in both Basque and Spanish news. The first incident involved an organization called ETA, which had previously taken armed action against Spanish prison staff after their demands for an end to the inhumanity and cruelty against the prisoners went disregarded. The ETA announced a total suspension of all actions as an effort towards a more humane approach to the conflict.

The second important event is the resolution adopted by the Committee Against Torture (CAT) of the United Nations urging the Spanish government to consider doing away with the situations in which the detainees may be held incommunicado for prolonged periods with restrictions on their rights to have access to the legal assistance of a lawyer of their choice.

In January 1987, after the breakdown in talks between the organization ETA and the Spanish government, the prison dispersal policy was instated and applied to Basque prisoners as a whole - 462 in November 1997. It has meant the ongoing denial of basic human rights. The dispersal law is in direct violation of the Spanish legal system, whose General Penitentiary Organic Law (LOGP) calls for prisoners to serve their sentences near their homes in order to avoid their social uprooting.

During the period between 1987-1997 there have been 352 beatings, restrictions on visits, bans on the use of the Basque language, poor sanitary conditions, and isolation. In 1997, three of the political prisoners died. Two were found hanging in their cells, one with feet bound and hands tied behind the back, and the third from cancer which was a direct result from the negligence of prison health care. The three deaths bring the number of Basque prisoners who have died in Spanish and French prisons to 13.

Since the beginning of October 1997, prisoners have been resisting with acts of disobedience and protests including hunger strikes and voluntary confinement. There has also been a massive surge of outrage from all walks of Basque society including institutions and political parties which had originally been in favor of the dispersal policy. In addition, there has also been support from grassroots organizations, trade unions, peace and human rights organizations, the Catholic Church, and from the public throughout Europe.

The widespread display of support has had a dramatic effect on the position of Basque political forces. On Dec. 18, 1995 the Basque Parliament adopted a resolution which urges "the Ministry of the Interior to introduce a plan for Basque citizens held to be located closer to home, allowing them as soon as possible to serve their sentences in prisons located closer to their usual places of residence." This initiative has sparked international support, in particular, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe (CPT), The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the International Prison Observatory (OIP) and the European Parliament.

Despite all the support the only thing the Spanish Government has done is leak to the press that certain prisoners may be transferred from the Spanish held Canary Islands, but there has been no concrete policy created to reduce the suffering of the prisoners and their families.

ungrateful is back!

and looking for your contributions for a 4th issue. i want to hear from you and poor, working poor, working class lesbians all over (its up to you to decide how you're workingclass, poverty class, low income/no income, union and more from how you were raised, your life now, your values, how others think of you...) what do your want to say to other poor and working class lesbians? all kinds of writing and art that can be photocopied welcome--don't be shy or worried about how you write. i can interview you by mail if you want. there's so much to talk about with lesbians and class - - if you need ideas look at my list in ungrateful #1-- dont's have ungrateful #1 to 3? just write and send $0 to $3 in cash or stamps to me. send contributions as soon as you can by march 31st 98

to me - claudine o'leary
6349 n. magnolia, apt p1, chicago, il 60660-1428

Puerto Rican Prisoners Rights Violated

On Thursday, February 5, 1998, prison authorities at USP Lewisburg placed Alberto Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican political prisoner, in isolation without explanation. According to information received from prisoners inside USP Lewisburg, by the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, the Latino prisoners were petitioning that the administration add a Spanish TV Network to the channels available to them through their closed circuit cable TV system.

The administration singled out Edwin Cortes, also a Puerto Rican political prisoner, to be responsible for organizing the petition. They claimed that since he had too much influence over the prisoners he must be the one organizing the petition. They brought him in and threatened him with punitive measures if the petition continued. Alberto Rodriguez upon hearing of the way the authorities dealt with Edwin wrote a letter to the warden characterizing the administration's harassment of Edwin Cortes as "stupid". Later that day guards came to Alberto and with no explanation placed him in complete isolation.

This account clearly demonstrates petty and abusive behavior against the prisoners involved. Latino prisoners have the right to petition to have a Spanish network in their cable programing.

What can you do: Write a letter to the Warden of USP Lewisburg.

Warden,
USP Lewisburg
PO Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17863

In that letter demand that Alberto Rodriguez be returned to general population immediately. Also state that you join the Latino prisoners of USP Lewisburg in petition to have access to a Spanish TV Network such as Telemundo or Univision.

Also, we are currently asking people to support the campaign to free Puerto Rican political prisoners by writing personal letters to President Clinton asking him to release the 15 Puerto Rican political prisoners. Letters should be mailed to:

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20502

For more information on Puerto Rican political prisoners visit our website at: http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/5919/